



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **A-0**

March 6, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*  
Director of Public Works

Jerry E. Powers *JEP*  
Chief Probation Officer

### YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM PILOT

The Departments of Public Works, Probation, Chief Executive Office, Human Resources, Community and Senior Services, and Public Social Services, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and nonprofit organizations Girls & Gangs and Soledad Enrichment Action have partnered to develop and implement a job readiness pilot program for youth ages 17 to 19 exiting the Probation system.

The Youth Opportunity Program pilot is designed to provide youth exiting probation camps with on-the-job training and career-based employment opportunities within Public Works in a broad range of entry-level positions. This collaborative program will provide a unique experience where youth will be mentored by Public Works staff and receive paid internship at Public Works via the Career Development Intern or Youth Worker classifications and receive educational, job readiness, and individual support from the partner organizations.

Over 11,000 juveniles are under Probation Department's supervision. Most of these youth need a whole array of support to become self-sufficient and productive young adults. As a large employer of entry-level jobs, the County has the opportunity and ability to assist these youth to become economically self-sufficient through programs designed by County departments. The Youth Opportunity Program is one of these programs that will provide an individualized support network to assist youth build the skills necessary to compete for entry-level positions within Public Works.

Each Supervisor  
March 6, 2014  
Page 2

Public Works and Probation are the lead departments responsible for managing this pilot program. We are currently in the early stages of implementation and will continue until June 30, 2016. As the lead departments, we will provide your office with annual progress reports by June 30 of each year until the completion of the pilot program.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Diane Lee McGiffen, Administrative Deputy, at (626) 458-4010 or [dmcgiffen@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:dmcgiffen@dpw.lacounty.gov).

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
Executive Office